

Founding Fathers

John Adams (our 2nd President); “The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity... I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.” *from a letter written on the day the Declaration of Independence was approved by Congress*

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." --*October 11, 1798*

John Quincy Adams (our 6th President; son of John Adams); “From the day of the Declaration [of Independence]...they [the American people] were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of The Gospel they nearly all, acknowledge as the rules of their conduct.” *July 4th, 1821*

“...the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth... it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity...” *July 4th, 1837*

Samuel Adams (signer of DI, principal organizer of Boston Tea Party); “A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader.” *1779*

Benjamin Franklin; (signer of DI and Constitution) “God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel” –*Constitutional Convention of 1787*

“In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered... do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”
Constitutional Convention, Thursday June 28, 1787

Alexander Hamilton (signer of the Constitution; Federalist Papers; first Secretary of the Treasury); On July 12, 1804 at his death, Hamilton said, “I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy; pray for me.”

"For my own part, I sincerely esteem it [the Constitution] a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests." *1787 after the Constitutional Convention*

John Hancock; (signer of DI) “In circumstances as dark as these, it becomes us, as Men and Christians, to reflect that whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments, ...at the same time all confidence must be withheld from the means we use; and reposed only on that God rules in the armies of Heaven, and without His whole blessing, the best human counsels are but foolishness... Resolved; ...Thursday the 11th of May...to humble themselves before God under the heavy judgments felt and

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feared, to confess the sins that have deserved them, to implore the Forgiveness of all our transgressions, and a spirit of repentance and reformation ...and a Blessing on the ... Union of the American Colonies in Defense of their Rights [for which hitherto we desire to thank Almighty God]... That the people of Great Britain and their rulers may have their eyes opened to discern the things that shall make for the peace of the nation...for the redress of America's many grievances, the restoration of all her invaded liberties, and their security to the latest generations. *"A Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, with a total abstinence from labor and recreation. Proclamation on April 15, 1775"*

John Jay (member of Continental Congress); "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers." *October 12, 1816*
"Whether our religion permits Christians to vote for infidel rulers is a question which merits more consideration than it seems yet to have generally received either from the clergy or the laity. It appears to me that what the prophet said to Jehoshaphat about his attachment to Ahab ["Shouldest thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord?" 2 Chronicles 19:2] affords a salutary lesson." *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, 1794-1826*

Thomas Jefferson (signer of DI); "Of all the systems of morality, ancient or modern which have come under my observation, none appears to me so pure as that of Jesus." "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus."
"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." *excerpts are inscribed on the walls of the Jefferson Memorial in the nation's capital; From Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, 1781*

James Madison; (signer of the Constitution, fourth President) "We've staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all of our heart." "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We've staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity...to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." *1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia*

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison proposed the plan to divide the central government into three branches. He discovered this model of government from the Perfect Governor, as he read **Isaiah 33:22**: "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us."

Patrick Henry; (Continental Congress, governor of Virginia) *The Last Will and Testament of Patrick Henry*; "It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

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Jedediah Morse; (American Revolution geographer, *The American Gazetteer*, Congregationalist minister) “To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys. . . Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all blessings which flow from them, must fall with them.”

George Washington; (our 1st President) from a speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs, May 12, 1779: “The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion” ...and later: “...reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.” “What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ.”

Thomas Paine (wrote ‘Common Sense’, calling for the DI by the colonies); “It has been the error of the schools to teach astronomy, and all the other sciences, and subjects of natural philosophy, as accomplishments only; whereas they should be taught theologically, or with reference to the Being who is the author of them: for all the principles of science are of divine origin. Man cannot make, or invent, or contrive principles: he can only discover them; and he ought to look through the discovery to the Author.” “The evil that has resulted from the error of the schools, in teaching natural philosophy as an accomplishment only, has been that of generating in the pupils a species of atheism. Instead of looking through the works of creation to the Creator himself, they stop short, and employ the knowledge they acquire to create doubts of his existence. They labour with studied ingenuity to ascribe every thing they behold to innate properties of matter, and jump over all the rest by saying, that matter is eternal.” *The Existence of God*